



Welcome to

## Grace Lutheran Church and School

Bring in, build up, and send  
out disciples for Jesus Christ.



## Visitors

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Read more about worship on the  
inside cover of this worship folder.

Fill out the form on the back cover  
to tell us more about you.

## Worship at Grace

The service is printed in this worship folder.

Hymns are ordinarily in the  
green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW)  
and blue *With One Voice* (WOV) hymnals.

Information is printed on the next page  
about additional resources for worship.

## Learn More

Today's insert contains announcements  
about ministries of Grace Church and School.

Learn more about Grace by visiting us  
online at [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org).

## The Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

## **Welcome to Grace**

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ—to love, to grow, and to serve. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the perforated page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

## **Children's Resources**

Activity bags, worship bulletins, and booster seats are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

## **Nursery Care**

The nursery is open and staffed at most worship services for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located across from Fellowship Hall. From the atrium, go through the Lamb Door by the elevator, up half a flight of stairs and turn right. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, up the stairs and turn left. A silent paging system allows the nursery staff to contact parents when needed.

## **Holy Communion**

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the bread and wine of Communion, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

## **Assistance in Worship**

For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated. Contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

## **Electronic Devices**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices during worship. Thank you.

## **Grace Council Statement on Racism**

Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

## **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers may be sponsored by members wishing to celebrate a special occasion or honor the memory of a loved one. Please stop by the front desk for details.

## **As We Gather**

A new word springs forth from Isaiah: Comfort! Take comfort, O people, for your time of exile is ending. The Lord is coming along a new road. God will bring the people home to Jerusalem. Mark begins his gospel not with angels and shepherds, but with an exilic echo: The Lord who once made a road to bring the people home will now make a home among the people. In Advent, we are called to prepare this road within ourselves. We repent, grinding up the old road so that a new one may be laid down. Like John, we are unworthy of the task, but God calls us anyway, using us as builders in this world's wilderness.



# ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** Ack Värmeland, du sköna

Swedish Traditional  
arr. Danish String Quartet

*We stand.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P** Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway**

(green) **LBW #26**

*Stanza three is sung by the choir in a setting by Michael D. Costello.*



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
**Choir** 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** **And also with you.**

# KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



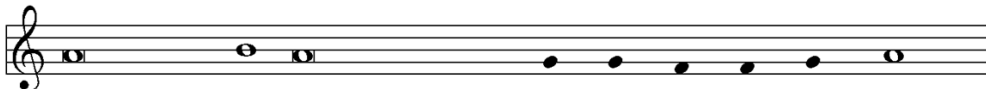
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.  
By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 85:1–2, 8–13

ANTIPHON: Righteousness and peace shall go before the Lord. Michael D. Costello

℣ You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;\*  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

☩ **You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people\*  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

℣ I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying,\*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

☩ **Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell | in our land.**

℣ Mercy and truth have | met together;\*  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

☩ **Truth shall spring up | from the earth,\*  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

℣ The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,\*  
and our land will | yield its increase.

☩ **Righteousness shall | go before him,\*  
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8–15a**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

<sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Luke 3:4, 6

Richard Hillert

*We join in singing:*

**G** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Choir** Prepare the way of the Lord.  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**G** **REFRAIN**



## HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**SERMON:** A New Road Home

Pastor David R. Lyle  
Mark 1:1–8; Isaiah 40:1–11



**HYMN OF THE DAY: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

(green) **LBW #23**

*Stanzas two and four are sung by the choir in a harmonization by Michael D. Costello.*



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
**Choir** 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
**Choir** 4 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
 who sit in deepest gloom,  
 who mourn your joys departed  
 and tremble at your doom.  
 Despair not; he is near you,  
 there, standing at the door,  
 who best can help and cheer you  
 and bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
 a terror to his foes,  
 a light of consolations  
 and blessed hope to those  
 who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 send forth your beams so cheering  
 and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johan Crüger, 1598–1662

## NICENE CREED

Ⓟ Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

Ⓒ **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes:*

- A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**G** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**G** **Amen.**

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### PEACE OF CHRIST

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**G** **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*We sit.*

**OFFERING/VOLUNTARY:** Minuet #60

Danish Traditional  
arr. Danish String Quartet

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE:** Luke 13:29, 14:15

Robert Wetzler

Many will come from east and west, and from north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Blessed are they who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**G** **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—  
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.  
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**P** The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Come, for all is now ready.

*We sit.*

### **AGNUS DEI**



**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.*

*The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper,  
giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.*

*We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread  
and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the bread into the wine (intinction).*

*Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.*

*Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.*

## MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

**ANTHEM:** Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Setting by Paul Bunjes

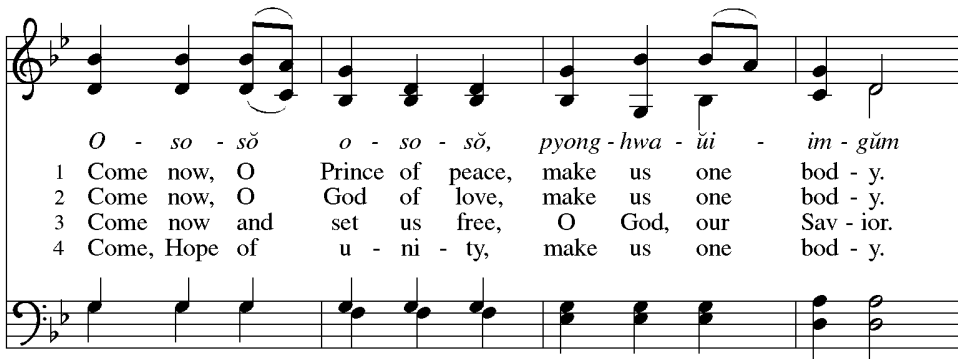
Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him  
And the hills bow down to greet him.

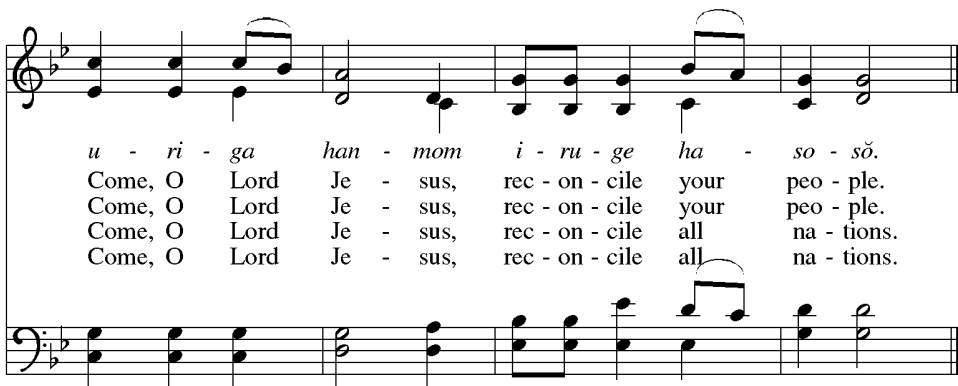
Johann Olearius, tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.

HYMN: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW #247



*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭn*  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

*We stand.*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

**A** Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

# ✠ SENDING ✠

## BENEDICTION

☞ Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

*(green)* LBW #36



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Michael D. Costello

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Ellie Anderson, assisting minister

Amy Claud, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir, choir

Kontras Quartet

Eleanor Bartsch, violin

François Henkins, violin

Ben Weber, viola

Jean Hatmaker, cello

Eunice Eifert, Ruth Nelson, lectors

Ellen Claud, Jackson Brayton, crucifer/Bible bearer

Julie Hinz, Julie Modrich, gift bearers

Richard Calhoun, Eliza Grahmke, John Sanger, Gerlinde VanDriesen, ushers

Jane Andrew, Marilyn Moehlenkamp, altar guild

Susan Bogner, greeter

Tom Swanson, Anne Claud, livestream audio/video

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Entrance Hymn, Hymn of the Day Setting, Anthem, Communion Distribution Hymn, and Postlude reprinted and livestreamed by permission of OneLicense.net license #A-704569.

## LET US PRAY...

Cathy Barker	Hans Dumpys	Susan Hammon	Dave Moeller
Miriam Bretscher	Louis Elia	Patricia Herendeen	Rob Ransom
MaryBeth Buschmann	Carol Forrest	Genevieve Jones	Ron Rott
Larry Caponigri	David Franzone	Phyllis Kersten	Marge Sanger
Dan Cattau	Susan Franzone	Joan Koerber	Pat Scala
Stewart Clarke	Hena Gantepalli	<b>Tom Maxwell</b>	Jim Scherer
Yvonne Daniels	Galen Gockel	Karen McMahan	Linda Webb

Joe Anderson (*nephew of Al and Irmgard Swanson*)  
 Marcia Anderson (*sister-in-law of David and Gay Anderson*)  
 Barbara Andre (*neighbor of Marilyn and Ken Heppner*)  
**Mike Arvis** (*uncle of Grace student Luke Murphy*)  
 Pat B. (*friend of Pat Anderson*)  
 Fran Benson (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)  
 Karen Berglund (*friend of Carol Stanger*)  
 Khadija Boudim (*friend of Pat Anderson*)  
 Irene Buchbinder (*mother of Paul Buchbinder*)  
 Jess Cosby (*nephew of Marilyn and Ken Heppner*)  
 Adeline Coyle (*cousin of Brooke Schedler*)  
 Shawn Dahlstrand (*friend of many at Grace*)  
 Sharese Damiri (*sister of Lori Martin*)  
 Nancy Demas (*sister of Thomas Demas and Mary Demas*)  
 Charles Dietz (*friend of Carol and Bill Ewald*)  
 Stella Dillberg (*mother of Gretchen Weaver*)  
 David Eastman (*brother of Pat Anderson*)  
 Patti and Neal Enslin (*friends of Marilyn Heppner*)  
 Nancy Epp (*sister of Pat Anderson*)  
 Randy Ernst (*friend of Valerie Spiller*)  
 Dianne Fink (*sister-in-law of Olinda Fink*)  
 Benjamin Galiher (*nephew of Paul May*)  
 Chandramma Gantepalli (*mother of Hena Gantepalli*)  
 Rose Geiseman (*wife of Jack Geiseman, daughter-in-law of Otto Geiseman*)  
 Jerry Haase (*friend of Mary Margaret Bartley and Stewart Clarke*)  
 Harry Heppner (*brother of Ken Heppner*)  
 Cheryl Hintze (*aunt of Dave Lyle*)  
 Herbert Hofmaier (*father of Barbara Hofmaier*)  
 Ruth M. Hughes (*mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey*)  
 Rina Jacobius (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
 Judy Johnson (*Grace School alum*)  
 Maureen Jordan (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
 Scott Kibler (*relative of April Kibler, father of John, Dan, and Olivia Kibler*)  
 Gayle Killey (*uncle of Julie Modrich*)

Fred Klawiter (*friend of Carolyn and Larry Garber*)  
 Arnold Krubsack (*brother of Irmgard Swanson*)  
 Kathryn Krubsack (*niece of Irmgard Swanson*)  
 Marcia Kruse (*mother-in-law of Carl Wahlstrom*)  
 Alice Lindberg (*sister of Carol Prinz*)  
 Kozene Lofton (*friend of Pat Anderson*)  
 John Lunde (*friend of Susan Messerli*)  
**Anita Lyle** (*mother of Dave Lyle*)  
 Esther Martz (*friend of Susie Calhoun*)  
 Pam Mattox (*former member of Grace*)  
 Betty McClerren (*aunt of Stephanie Wilkening*)  
 Charles Miller (*friend of Ruth Reko*)  
 Sharon Mitchell (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)  
 Dwight and Betty Nelson (*parents of Annalise Nelson Balock*)  
 Louis Nuechterlein (*nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)  
 Louis and Gloria Nuechterlein (*relatives of Eunice Spurgat*)  
 Paul Nuechterlein (*nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)  
 Ryan O'Neil (*friend of the Johnson family*)  
 Sharon Peridis (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)  
 Elaine Pierce (*friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson*)  
 James Powers (*friend of Al Swanson*)  
 Susan Prather (*cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott*)  
 Judy Redheffer (*daughter of Virginia Walker*)  
 John Riley (*father of Karin Danganan*)  
 Janet Rouseff (*sister-in-law of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)  
 Mary Lu Shipstad (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)  
 Joel Somers (*friend of Susan Scherer*)  
 Leah Stanger (*daughter-in-law of Carol and John Stanger*)  
 Nancy Stelling (*friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten*)  
**Jill Sunderman** (*mother of Elyssa Salinas Lazarski*)  
 Russ Tellio (*friend of Susan and David Franzone*)  
 Mary Lou Wagoner (*sister-in-law of Stan Reddel*)  
 Bob Weaver (*husband of Gretchen*)  
 Amy Wischhusen (*relative of Ann Mason*)  
 Randi Woodworth (*sister of Tammy Bretscher*)  
 Don and Arleeta Yeske (*friends of Eunice Spurgat*)

## Benevolence ministries

Lutheran World Relief

## In thanksgiving for

The 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Carl Gruendler** (12/11)

## For those who mourn

**Julia Hickey** (*daughter of Susan Hickey*)

**Janet Andreski** (*mother of Joan Dyer*)

**Eunice Larsen** (*mother of Rebecca Dahlstrom*)

**Tuti Olse** (*relative of Susan Franzone*)

**Dick Woodka** (*friend of Susan and David Franzone*)

## Those serving in the armed services

Jacob Benson (*great-nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

John Kibler (*son of April Kibler*)

Joshua Nelson (*son-in-law of Ted and Maja Anton*)

Miles Powell (*grandson of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie*)

Matthew Shinkwin (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

## Those studying abroad

Lila Shea (*England*)

## Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Tim Sandvoss

Christopher Davis

Kathleen Wrobel

Joan Koerber

## Those who need encouragement

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

*Prayer requests can be made through the church office. Contact Esther Armstrong ([eamstrong@gracriverforest.org](mailto:eamstrong@gracriverforest.org)) to be included in the weekly prayers. For more private prayer concerns, please contact Kathy Lucht ([kathy.lucht@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.lucht@gmail.com)) to be added to the confidential prayer chain.*

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## Electronic giving

*Your financial gifts support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School.*

**On Venmo** Search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @gracriverforest.

**By text** Text a dollar amount to 833-471-1346. If you're a first-time text giver, you'll receive a link with instructions about how to complete your donation.

**Online donation** Go to [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) and look for Donate on the home page menu. Or use the QR code.



## **TODAY, DECEMBER 10**

Library Open (self service) .....	<b>9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Grace Gathers</b> (Fellowship Hall) .....	<b>8:45 a.m.</b>
Adult Education (Seminar Room) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Bible Study (Conference Room) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Sunday School PK-SK (Nursery) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Sunday School Gr 1-4 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Faith Formation, Grades 5&6 (3/4 Shared Classroom).....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Confirmation (School Library) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b> .....	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
Teen Talk (Youth Center) .....	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>
Christmas Eve Rehearsal for Public School Students Grades 1-4 (Seminar Room) .....	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>
Christmas Eve Rehearsal for Public School Students Grades 5-8 (Seminar Room) .....	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Advent Christmas Concert</b> .....	<b>3:45 p.m.</b>

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**

Finance Committee (Virtual) .....	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
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## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Retired Leaders (Sanctuary) .....	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
Elementary Education Committee (1902 Room) .....	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Property Committee (Conference Room) .....	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

<b>School Chapel – Morning Prayer</b> .....	<b>8:25 a.m.</b>
Cornerstones (Church Library) .....	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Advent Morning Prayer</b> .....	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>
Christmas Lunch (Fellowship Hall) .....	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>
Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall) .....	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Advent Evening Prayer</b> .....	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) .....	<b>7:45 p.m.</b>

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

GriefShare (Church Library) .....	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
Women’s Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Board of Discipleship (Conference Room) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Boy Scouts (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
Music of the Baroque Concert (Sanctuary) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Middle School Christmas Party (Youth Center) .....	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
Religion in Literature (offsite) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Chicago Choral Artists Concert (Sanctuary) .....	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
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## Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail,  
*Sunday Is Coming.*
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me  
via (check one)  Phone or  E-mail.

**David R. Lyle**, Senior Pastor  
**Troy E. Medlin**, Associate Pastor  
**F. Dean Lueking**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Michael D. Costello**, Cantor  
**William Koehne**, Principal  
**Joanna Schubkegel**, Parish Nurse  
**Brendha Adams**, Communications Coordinator  
**Julie Modrich**, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
**Julie Hinz**, Discipleship and Fellowship Coordinator  
**Jim McClanahan**, Director of Administration & Finance  
**David Pfeiffer**, Facilities Manager  
**José Meza**, Technology Manager

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

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Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ.